Constitutional Papers

File. No 62 A

National Anthem and
National Flag

1947

RP file
art no 3

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

Council House,
New Delhi,
23rd June 1947.

From the day that India reveives complete transfer of power from British hands, it is necessary that a national flag should fly from all public buildings. The design of this flag should be approved in advance by the Constituent Assembly of India.

The President has decided that an Ad Hoc Committee consisting of the following members should be set up with a view to advising on the design of the flag. It is proposed that the report of the committee should be placed before the next session of the Assembly Commencing on the 14th of July.

1. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
2. Mr. C. Rajagopalachari.
3. Mrs. Sarojini Naidu
4. Sardar K.M.Panikkar
5. Mr. K.M.Munshi
6. Dr. B.R.Ambedkar.
7. Sardar Ujjal Singh.
8. Mr. Frank Anthony
9. Mr. S.N. Gupta (formerly Principal of the Mayo School of Arts, Lahore).

3. The President has good reason to believe that there is a strong feeling in the country in favour of adopting as the national flag of India the national flag adopted by the Congress in 1931. Copies of the resolutions passed by the Working Committee and the A.I.C.C. in August of that year are enclosed for information.

The first meeting of the Committee will be held in the President's room in the Council Chamber on Thursday the 10th July, at 10.A.M. I am to express

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the hope that you will find it convenient to attend.

Yours sincerely,

(H.V.R.Iengar)

To

All members (by name)

Copy to H.P

RP file
Vol. no. 3

3

Resolution passed by the Working Committee at the meeting held in August 1931.

NATIONAL FLAG

Having considered the Report of the Flag Committee, the Working Committee appreciates its labours and endorses its view that the National Flag should not bear any commual significance and that it should be distinctive and not capable of being mistaken for the flag of any other country. The Working Committee feels, however, that it would be desirable to have as little change as possible in the existing flag. The Committee, therefore, recommends to the A.I.C.C for its adoption the following change:

The flag to be three coloured, horizontally arranged, as before, but the colours shall be saffron, white and green in the order stated here from top to bottom, with the spinning wheel in dark blue in the centre of the white stripe; it being understood that the colours have no commual significance, but that saffron shall represent courage and sacrifice, white peace and truth, and green shall represent faith and chivalry, and the spinning wheel the hope of the masses.

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Resolution passed by the A.I.C.C. at the meeting held in August 1931.

The report of the National Flag Committee was considered and it was resolved that "the National Flag shall be three coloured, horizontally arranged as before, but the colours shall be Saffron, White and Green, in the order stated here from top to bottom, with the spinning-wheel in dark blue in the centre of the white stripe, the colours standing for qualities, not comunities. The saffron shall represent courage and sacrifice, white peace and truth, and green shall represent faith and chivalry and the spinning-wheel the hope of the masses. The proportions of the flag should be as three to two." The new national flag was required to be hoisted on August 30th, the last Sunday of the month, which was to be celebrated as the ~~Na Flag~~ flag Day.

RP file
subj. no 3

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Dronachellam,
Kurnool Dist.,
Madras Presidency.

24th June 1947.

My dear Babuji,

Let me take the liberty in introducing myself as the son of Mr. P.Venkayya who tackled the question of National Flag for India between the years 1914 nad 1921 and whom our Mahatmaji asked to give him the present tricolour Flag when the All India Congress Committee met at Bezwada in the year 1921. I am glad to inform you that he is doing well.

I understand from the Hindu of the 23rd instt. that in order to design a suitable natilnal flag for Union to be unfurled on the day when power is transferred to the Indian Union by the middle of August. You will shortly appoint a Committee to go into this question of great National importance and make recommendations for the consideration of the General Session of the Constituent Assembly dufing its ensuing session. As a member of the family who from the very beginning has been tackling this problem and as one who is very much interested in the same, I have the pleasure in requesting you that I may be given an opportunity in the Committee to be appointed by you so that I can present some suitable designs for a national flag for Union for the consideration of the Constituent Assembly.

With Namaskarams ,

Yours sincerely,

P. Parasuramaiah.

Hon'ble Dr.Babu Rajendra Prasad.

Delhi.

TRUE COPY

Lucknow 25th June, 1947.

The Editors,

The Amrita Bazzar Pattika, The National Herald and the Pioneer,

Lucknow.

Sir,

Re: NATIONAL FLAG COMMITTEE OF CONSEMBLY PERSONNEL

The Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad, President of the Constituent Assembly of India announced the names of the Ad Hoc Committee set up for formulating a national flag of Indian Union among whom one was expecting the name of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee also but which has been left out by mistake it is believed. If so there is yet ample time and the mistake is also not of irrepairable nature. I therefore, request the Hon'ble President of the Constitunet Assembly to please note the name of Dr. S.P. Moorerjee and add in the list of the Committee personnel and thereby give the committee a national character with practically all groups being adequately represented.

It may be added in this connection that India's fight for Independence being triangular, India's national flag must be a triangular one. Practically all the free nations of the world have rectangular flags but Indias being different country having different circumstance and different traditions must at least have a different design of its national flag. It may, therefore, be suggested that it should be triangular and orange coloured having green and white borders on all sides and a small picture plough in the middle. Tri-colour being the source of encouragement and inspiration to the Indian people for the attainment of freedom of their moterland, we cannot forget its importance on the otherhand we owe a duty to the martyrs of Indian Freedom Movement who were largely Hindus and agriculturists. who should be duly honoured and respected.

Yours Etc.

Ramesh Chandra Bhargava

NB: Copies have been forwarded to the Hon'ble ~~Dr. Raje~~ Dr. Rajendra Prasad, President of the Constituent Assembly; Sir B.N. Rau, Constitutional Adviser to the Govt. of India; and Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee, member of the Cosembly, for information.

Rama Chandra Bhargava.

No.1517/47-PCA
xxxxxxxxxxx

1, Queen Victoria Road,
30th June 1947.

Dear Sir,

This is to thank you for your express delivery letter to the Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad President of the Constituent Assembly. He has already appointed a committee for the National Flag. You may send your suggestions and designs and they will be placed before the Committee for consideration. For your information I would like to add here that the first meeting of the Committee is fixed for the 10th of July.

Yours faithfully,

(Chakradhar Sharan)
Private Secretary to
the Hon'ble President.

Sjt. Pingali Parasuramayya,
Geologist and Journalist,
Dronachellam,
Kurnool District,
Madras Presidency.

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CA/78/Cons/47.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA.

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL FLAG OF INDIA.

The first meeting of the Committee fixed for 10 a.m. on July 10, 1947, will now be held at 3 p.m. instead, on the same date and in the same place.

(K.V.Padmanabhan)
Under Secretary.

New Delhi,
July 3, 1947.

To

All members of the Committee.

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CA/78/Cons/47.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA.

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL FLAG OF INDIA.

The first meeting of the Committee fixed for 10 a.m. on July 10,1947, will now be held at 3 p.m. instead, on the same date and in the same place.

New Delhi,
July 3, 1947.

(K.V.Padmanabhan)
Under Secretary.

To
All members of the Committee.

NO.CA/78/Cons./47.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

Council House,
New Delhi, the 4th July, 1947.

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL FLAG OF INDIA.

I forward herewith a note prepared by Mr. S.D.Kalelkar of Nagpur on the National Flag for India for consideration at the first meeting of the Committee fixed for the 10th July, 1947.

(K.V.Padmanabhan)
Under Secretary.

To
All members of the ad hoc Committee
on the National Flag of India.

A NATIONAL FLAG FOR INDIA

(By Shri Satish D.Kalelkar, M.A.(Oxon),
Principal, G.S.College of Economics
and Commerce, Nagpur).

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's far-sighted decision to stick to the original nomenclature of Union of Indian Republics' with a view to emphasising the Congress stand that there has been no change of outlook as far as they are concerned, may serve as a useful pointer to the Ad-hoc Committee for National Flag, recently appointed by Dr. Rajedra Prasad the President of the Constituent Assembly. If the Congress ideology has remained unchanged, a flag which has represented that ideology and for which million shed their blood so that the honour of the national flag may be maintained, need not undergo any radical change except on grounds of technical details of flag-making.

Originally, the flag had three horizontal strips of white, green and red in that order, starting from the top with the figure of 'charkha' superimposed. At later stages, the red strip was replaced by the orange (to recognise the sacrifices of the saffron-clad ~~clad~~ 'Desh-sevikas' as some thought) and the other was changed to orange, white and green, with the 'charkha' in the centre.

One of the basic principles of flag-making is that it must be distinct against the background of the sky, and for this reason, a white strip at any extremity has to be ruled out of the question. The original flag with a white strip at the top and flying on the mast of a say a battle ship, would appear against the background of the sky as a flag with only two strips of green and red, the white strip being swallowed up by the sky. The white strip, if it is to remain, and I shall show presently why it should remain, must necessrily be in the centre with two distinct colours coming above and below it.

The second principle is that the colours must be as distinct as possible and must not be capable of

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running into too many shades. The present orange colour, from this point of view is not an improvement on the old red. Not infrequently we come across flags with orange colours which may be anything from yellow, saffron, and pink to 'bhagwa' of the Sadhu's 'Kafni'. The red strip of the original flag was definitely better from this point of view.

Adoption of the original red might also effect a compromise with workers who have a partiality to that colour. A symbol of revolution, the red need not necessarily indicate a bloody revolution; it may very well stand for the non-violent revolution that we have witnessed in India.

If the saffron was introduced to recognise the sacrifices of the 'Desh-sevikas',(and I am told, this was not the case), would not 'white(, the symbol of purity better suit Indian womanhood? Would it not also depict them as 'Sisters of Mecy' which in reality they are? Replacement of the orange need not therefore worry the 'Desh-sevikas'.

A third principle which is equally important if the flag is to have a wide popular appeal is that, the details of design must not be too complicated and over-decorative to make it almost impossible for a man in the street to design a national flag of his own; 'Tiger's head' for example, would not do.

From this point of view, we should try and see if the present 'Charkha' cannot be replaced by something that symbolises 'Charkha'. The 'Charkha' must of course be maintained, but only in a symbolic form. The present figure of 'Charkha' creates following difficulties of flag-making:

(1) The design is not very easy to draw;

(ii) It is not symmetrical;and

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(iii) if the obverse of the flag shows ' charkha' with the wheel towards the mast and the spindle towards the end with its point facing towards one (I am thinking of the position when the flag is flying to the left of the mast), then the reverse must show the same 'charkha' but the point of the spindle facing away from one. Few understand this important point and we come across ridiculous figures of 'Charkha' with the wheel towards the left and the spindle pointing towards one on the right!

The simple wheel, I submit, could still symbolise the 'Charkha' making it easier to draw, symmertrical in design, and without creating confusion with the obverse and the reverse sides of the flag.

The wheel which was the earliest and most vital discovery of human beings has been the sub-stratum of all civilizations, and it would particulary symbolise an agricultural community such as In dian; it would therefore represent the Kisan and the Kisan movement too.

At the same time, the wheel may indicate industry and commerce without necessarily implying mechanisation or the capitalist system.

The wheel may further symbolise 'Kranti' by being the wheel of ~~vaku~~ revolution and may be acceptable to parties which prefer to call themselves 'revolutionary'

And finally, the wheel might also include the Buddhist concept of 'Dharma-Chakra' (adopted by Emperor Ashoka) or the balance wheel of religion that sustains society. The spiritual basis of Indian Civilisation might thus be made pronounced in our national symbol which will cause the message of peace, and non-violence to the whole world.

To conclude, our flag may have three strips of red, white and green (of the mother earth and her children the tillers) with a wheel with eight ~~sap~~ spokes superimposed in any suitable colour.

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

Council House,

New Delhi, the July 9,1947.

NATIONAL FLAG COMMITTEE MEETING ON 10TH JULY 1947 AT 3 P.M. IN COUNCIL HOUSE NEW DELHI.

POINTS suggested for discussion:

1. NATIONAL FLAG:

(i) Colours to be used.

(a) Exact shades of the colours.

(b) width of the stripes of the colours.

(ii) Whether any symbol should be super-imposed on the colours

(a) Position of the symbol/s on the flag.

(b) Colour or colours of the Symbol/s.

Note: "Flag designing is really a branch of heraldry and should be in accordance with its laws both in the forms and colours introduced. Yellow in blazonry is the equivalent of gold, and white of silver, and it is one of the requirements of heraldry that colour should not be placed upon colour nor metal upon metal; but it is not every one who knows heraldry, as is evident from the national flags of the South American Republics and other States that should have known better. Even the Popes with their white and yellow, that is silver and gold, have displayed their ignorance of heraldry for over a thousand years, and imposed it on the kingdom of Jerusalem"-- Wheeler-Holohan.

(c) Size of the symbol/s

(iii) Size of the flag.

Proportion of the width to the breadth:

Note: The maximum size of the Union Jack ordinarily used is 18ft. X 9ft.; the usual one being 12X6ft.

11 National emblem to be used on the State seals, letter-heads of State papers, etc.

(a) What symbols should be incorporated?

(b) In what order, should the symbols be arranged?

(c) What should be the predominant symbol?

(ii) Colour of the emblem:

(a) Should there be one colour?

(b) Should the national colours be used?

Note: When used as a seal or as a letter-hand emblem will usually ~~xxxx~~ be only of one colour; but when it is used as an architectural feature or has to be painted for ceremonial purposes on State furniture etc., it will have to be in colours, and it is therefore advisable to fix the colours.

AW/20 copies.
9.7. 1947.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL FLAG.

Minutes of the 1st meeting of the ad hoc Committee on the National Flag held at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, July 10, 1947.

PRESENT:

Dr. Rajendra Prasad (in the Chair)
Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad
Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar
Mrs. Sarojini Naidu
Sardar K.M. Panikkar
Mr. K.M. Munshi
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
Sardar Baldev Singh
Mr. S.N. Gupta
Pandit Hiralal Shastri
Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya
Mr. Satyanarayan Sinha.

In attendance:

Mr. H.V.R. Iengar, Secretary.
Mr. B.F.H.B. Tyabji, Deputy Secretary.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was present by special invitation.

After a general discussion on the significance and importance of the National flag, it was agreed that the flag should be so designed as to command universal respect and devotion, irrespective of party or other affiliations, and then placed before the Constituent Assembly for adoption as the National Flag of India.

2. The following decisions were then taken:

(1) The flag of the Indian National Congress should be adopted as the National Flag with suitable modifications to make it acceptable to all parties .....

and communities in India.

(2) The size of the flag should be in the proportion of 3 : 2, the former being the length from masthead to fly.

(3) The flag should be a tricolour with the three bands ~~Na~~ horizontally arranged.

(4) The colours should be in the following order: Saffron (Kafni) on top; White in the middle; and dark Green at the bottom.

(5) The emblem on the flag should be an exact reproduction of the wheel on the capitol of Asoka's Sarnath Pillar superimposed in the middle of the central band (White) of the flag.

(6) The colour of the emblem should be dark blue.

3. The question of the designs of the State emblem and seal was then considered, and the following tentative decisions taken:

(1) The emblem and the seal should be of the same design.

(2) The design should be an exact reproduction of the whole of the Sarnath Asoka capitol till it joins the stem of the Pillar (Sthambha).

(3) The words "Republic of India" should be superscribed round the emblem, and "Seal of the Republic of India" round the seal.

The Committee decided to meet again after a few days when a final decision on the designs of the flag and the emblem will be taken ~~on~~ after considering the samples which will be made in accordance with the directions given above.

New Delhi,
July 10,1947.

H.V.R.Iengar
Secretary.

To

All members of ad hoc Committee on National Flag.

INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

X LK BOMBAY ABD 10 dr Rajendra Prasad President consembly

New Delhi

HINDU STUDENTS OF BOMBAY INSIST BHAGWA STANDARD AS NATIONAL FLAG STOP GREEN STRIPE ABSOLUTELY OBJECTIONABLE STOP CHARKA SYMBOL OF PROGRESS AND CULTURE SHOULD REPLACE CHARAKHA.....ATHLYE PRESIDENT BOMBAY PROVINCIAL HINDU STUDENTS FEDERATION.....

RSP AT 20/55

AP file
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INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

X XL BOMBAY 9 TWOADDS 41

PRESEDENT CONSTITUTION ASSEMBLY NEW DELHI.

PUBLIC MEETING OF TUNDRED INSTITUTION REPRESENTATIVES RESOLVED ON WEDNESDAY EVENING IN MARATHA MANDIR HALL BOMBAY THAT FREE INDIAS NATIONAL FLAG SHOULD BE BHAGAVA ZANDA ONLY.....

.... ADVOCATE DAUNKER MEETINGS PRESIDENT.....

RP file
Sl. no 3

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INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

ND PESHAWER 10 PRESIDENT CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY N D

CONVERY FLAG COMMITTEE POSTPONE FINAL DESIGN PENDING

ADOPTION OF PAKISTAN FLAG IF LATER EXCLUDE MINORITIES

REPRESENTATION COLOUR HINDUS WILL PREFER BHAGWA DHWAJ

ALREADY COMMANDINGTHEIR ALLEGIANCE..... GIRDHARI

LAL NORKIN PRESIDENT FRONTIER HINDU SABHA.....

XXXXXXXXX
President

1, Queen Victoria Road,
New Delhi.

The 11th July 1947.

My dear Maulana Saheb,

I have received your letter of date. Ordinarily a Sub-Committee of the Constituent Assembly decides as to who should present its report to the Constituent Assembly. No decision was taken yesterday as another meeting of the Sub-Committee would take place before its report is finalized. It would be ~~wk~~ in the next meeting of the Sub-Committee to take decision on the point and to nominate any member for the purpose. Personally I do not think it would be right for me to put a proposition like this from the Chair as it is possible that some members may have to say someting about the proposition and ~~may~~ any controversial proposition had better be placed by a member and not by the Chairman of the Constituent Assembly. I would raise this question at the next meeting of the Committee and ask it to give its decision.

Yours sincerely,

AP

The Hon'ble Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad,
New Delhi.

LP file
ref: No 3

-1-

Dhone,
Kurnool District,
13- 7- 1947.

Dear Mr. Chakradhar Sharan,

I thank you very much for your kind letter No.1517/47- PCA dated 30th June 1947 and I only feel very much for my inability to submit my suggestions fo for a National Flag for union by the 10th inst. to be placed before the first meeting of the Flag Committee held on the 10th as I was away from my headquarters on geological work all these days.

Fortunately when I was going through my father Mr. P.Venkaiah's National Flag record few days back, I found the only copy of his booklet entitled "A National Flag for India" published in the year 1916 wherein he has given 30 coloured designs for a National Flag for India and I have the pleasure of sending you the same under separate cover this day per Registered Post hoping that it would help the Flag Committee to some extent in connection with the selection of a suitable flag for Indian Union. Please give this out-of-print booklet to our Dr. Rajendraprasadji for his perusal and return.

Hoping to hear from you sonn and thanking you in the meanwhile,

I remain,
Yours sincerely,
(P.PARASURAMAYYA.)

Chakradhar Sharan Esq.,
Private Secretary to Hon'ble
Dr. Rajendraprasad,
Constituent Assembly of India,
1 Queen Victoria Road,
New Delhi.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA.

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL FLAG.

A meeting of the ad hoc Committee on the National Flag will be held on Friday the 18th July, 1947, in Room No.28, Council House, at 6.p.m. (or immediately after the rising of the Assembly) to consider the design of the National Flag as decided upon at the first meeting.

New Delhi,
July 16, 1947.

H.V.R.IENGAR
SECRETARY?
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

To
All members of the Ad hoc Committee on National Flag.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA.

Draft Minutes of the second meeting of the ad hoc Committee on National Flag held at 6.p.m. on Friday, July 18,1947, in Council House, New Delhi.

PRESENT:-

1. Dr. Rajendra Prasad (in the Chair)
2. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
3. Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar.
4. Mrs. Sarojini Naidu.
5. Sardar K.M.Panikkar.
6. Mr. K.M.Munshi.
7. Dr. B.R.Ambedkar.
8. Sardar Baldev Singh.
9. Mr. Frank Anthony.
10. Mr. S.N. Gupta.
11. Pandit Hiralal Shastri.
12. Dr. B.Pattabhi Sitaramayya.
13. Mr.Satyanarayan Sinha.

In attendance:

1. Mr.H.V.R.Iengar, Secretary.
2. Mr.B.F.H.B.Tyabji, Deputy Secretary.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was present by special invitation.

The design of the flag prepared in accordance with the directions given at the first meeting of the Committee was approved. It was decided that:

(i) The Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru should move a resolution in the Constituent Assembly in the following terms:-

"The National Flag shall be a horizontal tricolour of deep Saffron (Kesari), white and dark green in equal proportion. In the centre of the white band, there shall be a wheel in navy blue to represent the Charkha. The design of the Wheel shall be that of the Wheel (Chakra) which appears on the abacus of the Sarnath Lion Capitol of Asoka.

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The diameter of the Wheel shall approximate to the width of the white band.

The ratio of the width to the length of the flag shall ordinarily be 2 : 3."

(ii) That samples of the flag decided upon should be prepared and shown to members of the Constituent Assembly when the resolution is moved.

After the Constituent Assembly has approved the flag, the President of the All India Women's Conference should be formally invited to present a flag of the approved design on behalf of the women of India to the nation.

2.As regards the design of State seal and emblem, it was considered that a decision in this matter was not of immediate urgency, and should be postponed until more designs were prepared.

New Delhi,
July 19, 1947.

H.V.R.IENGAR
SECRETARY.

RP file

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110 Chandani,

THANA, 23rd. July 1947.

Respected Sir,

Re:- The National Flag.

I hope the following matter will receive your valued consideration.

Whatever expression one may try to find from the symbol-Wheel, on the National flag, the fact remains that the selection of its colour has gone altogether wrong.

Astronomically, every Planet has a colour of its own and holds magnetic influence in particular kind, in shaping the destiny of men or Nations, under its influence. There, the colour Blue, is representative of the मन्दग्रह (Mandagraha) the Saturn, which denotes slow action and as such its association with wheel-the symbol of progressive movements; is quite inappropriate. Furthermore, the wheel represents (Atman), the soul of Materialistic, Celestial, Cosmic and other worlds, who is no other than distinguished by his GOLDEN colour.

Similarly, according to रसाकार (Rasakara) every 'रस' (Rasa) is attributed with a particular kind of colour different from the other Rasas in the 'नवरस' (Navarasa) group, as stated below:-

(1) शृंगार	श्यामवर्ण	Romance	-------Blue-black
(2) वीर	हरितवर्ण	Valour	-------Golden.
(3) करुण	कपोत	Pathos	Light Grey.
(4) रौद्र	रक्त	Rage.	Red
(5) हास्य	श्वेत	Ridicule	White
(6) बीभत्स	नील	Vulgar	BLUE.
(7) अद्भुत	पीत	Wonder	Yellow.
(8) शान्त	चन्द्रवर्ण	Peace	Moonlight.
(9) वात्सल्य	कनकाभ	Calf-Love	Light-Pink.

Here also Blue is described as बीभत्स' Vulgar, and as such its use is quite undersirable, Naturally, therefore, our final choice would be restricted to the use of only two shades of colours Viz:-

Golden or Red, the formerone expressive of the Valour and light-energy and the latter being treated as auspicious by the Hindus.

Yours faithfully,

P.K.NAIK.

RP file 251-203

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1, Queen Victoria Road,

27.7.47.

My dear Jawaharlalji,

When the question of the national flag was being considered by the Sub-Committee, I suggested that the resolution should definitely state that the cloth of which the flag is made should be handspun and handwoven - whether of cotton, silk or wool. I understood from what was said that it was not necessary to state it in the resolution but that that would be the case. I have been informed that the Constituent Assembly office has placed orders for 3000 flags with some textile mill. I have just issued an instruction to the office that the order, if placed, should be cancelled and that only handspun and handwoven cloth should be used for flags in the Constituent Assembly. Imagine similar orders may have been placed by other departments, particularly those in charge of the ceremonies on the 15th August. I strongly feel that at least flags on Government buildings and flags purchased at Government cost should be of pure handspun and handwoven Khaddar and orders to that effect should be passed by the Government not only for the departments in Delhi but also for Provincial Governments which are likely to use flags very largely on the 15th August. Apart from the fact that the use of any other cloth will touch Bapu to the quick and will alienate him still further from us, I think we should not discard Khadi in an indirect manner, and if we wish to discard Khadi it we should do it openly and directly after taking a deliberate discussion to that effect.

Yours sincerely,

cpl/ck.

17 York Road,
New Delhi.
27th July 1947

My dear Rajendra Babu,

I have your letter of the 27th July about the Flag. I quite agree with you that flags made for governmental purposes should be Khadi, either cotton or silk. Various Government departments and Provincial Governments should be informed of this.

Yours sincerely,
Jawaharlal.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad,
1 Queen Victoria Road,
New Delhi.

RP file 1947-48

30

1, Queen Victoria Road,

New Delhi, the 28th July, 1947.

Dear Mr. Bhabha,

Dr. Rajendra Prasad has desired me to send you a copy of the letter he has received from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and has requested you to take such action on this as you may think proper.

Yours sincerely,

The Hon'ble Mr. C.H.Bhabha,
Memebr for Works, Mines and Power,
Government Of India,
New Delhi.

RP file
Sec. 203

11

Lalitakala Mhamandala

3

390/B-1, Narayan Poona,
2-

August 4, 1947.

To

Dr. Rajendra Prasad,
President, Indian Constituent Assembly,
New Delhi.

Sir,

In regard to the Indian National Flag, accepted by the Indian Constituent Assembly, I, on hehalf on the Lalitakala Mahamandala, Poona, wish to bring to your notice, that the design of the said Flag fails to satisfy the aesthetic sense, and to convey the significance of the central symbol- "Ashoka Chakra".

To make the matter clear, I have to point out, that the Ashoka Chakra, which stands in the middle white stripe of the Flag, remains detached from the upper Saffron and the lower Green stripe, and as such does not show the Union of the various interests indicated by the coloured stripes.

The Lalatakala Mahamandala is, therefore, of the opinion, that with a view to achieving the object for which the Asoka Chakra is given a place in the Flag it should not only touch the lower border of the Saffron and the upper border of the Green stripe but should cover a small part of both of them.

Apart form the political aspects of the flag, it it be redesigned as suggested above, it will render our National Flag the desired signigicance and the aesthestic value. I request, therefore that the suitable action may please be taken in the matter to depict properly the bond of unison, for which the Ashoka Chakra stands.

I am submitting copies of this letter to Mahatma Gandhi, Pdt. Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Vallabhabhai Patel.

Yours sincerely.
S.B.Talekar

RP file
Bnt. 103

11

32

ALL INDIA SPINNERS' ASSOCIATION
(Punjab Branch)

Date:- 4- 8- 1947.

Shri

My Dear Dadaji,

Re: National Flags:

It has not been made clear officially if the National Flags have to be made exclusively of hand-spun & hand-woven Khaddar certified by A.I.S.A. as here-to-fore or it can be prepared by whatsoever firm or individual. Taking advantage of the public sentiments the market is being flooded with all sorts of flags which are being sold at exhorbitant profits.

I enclose herewith a price list of National Flags as sold by All India Spinners' Association, Punjab Branch as compared to the price list circulated by "Edde" Tailors, Queensway, New Delhi. It will be of interest to observe that A.I.S.A deals in purely hand-spun & hand-woven cloth which is far more expensive than the mill cloth and includes 20% overhead charges etc.

We strongly feel that A.I.S.A. OR such other Associations that have no interest in profiteering should have t e exclusive right to sell the National Flags as before and that it should be made of A.I.S.A Certified Khadi alone or the prices may bbe controlled in the alternative.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-Sohan Lal

Secretary.

To

Syt. Acharya Kripalani,
President, Indian National Congress,
6, Jantermanter Road,
New Delhi.

Copy forwarded to Hon'ble Babu Rajendra Prasd

~~Prssix~~ President Constituent Assembly,

New Delhi.

No.F.16(3-a)-P5/47

New Delhi.

4th August 1947.

My Dear Rajendra Babu,

I enclose a letter in original from the Maharaja of Patiala about the composition of the National Anthem.

Yours sincerely,

Jawaharlal.

The Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad,

President,

Constituent Assembly,

New Delhi.

Hotel Imperial,
New Delhi,
31st July, 1947.

My Dear Jawaharlalji,

You would recollect that we had ~~to~~ a talk about the composition of the National Anthem when you were good enough to come to the party I gave the other day at the Imperial. I then told you that in my opinion the question of the National Anthem was one which required very careful consideration, and that it would perhaps be worth our while to engage the services of a foreign composer of some repute, who should come to India and spend some time in investigating all the aspects of the proposal. The Indian National Anthem should reflect the great history of our country, the rightful place which India is shortly going to assume in the international sphere and her rising aspirations. It would be necessary to appoint a small Committee to choose the words for the anthem, which can then be tried out on a band to select a suitable tune.

As I mentioned to you, I believe my band is probably the best available in India which can play both classical and other tunes. I would place it unreservedly at the disposal of the composer, and would be very glad to render such other assistance as may be possible.

I shall be glad to hear from you what steps you what steps you propose taking in the matter and whether I can be of any assistance.

Yours sincerely,

.....x

The Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

17, York Road,

New Delhi.

x The Maharaja of Patiala

Dhone,
Kurnool District,
S. India.

15th August 1947.

Dear Mr.Sharan.

On the 15th ultimo I had the pleasure of despatching per registered post by Air Mail the only copy of my father Mr. P. Venkayya's booklet entitled" A National Flag for India" (published in 1916) I preserved to your address to be transmitted to Babu Rajendra Prasadji for his perusal and return. Since the flag question is settled once for all, I request you to return the booklet in question to me to my above address by registered book post at your earliest convenience.

With my kindest regards to you.

Yours sincerely,
P. Parasuramayya.

To
Sri. Bhakradhar Sharan,
New Delhi.

No.2402/47-PCA.
1, Queen Victoria Road,

11th August 1947.

Dear Mr. Parasuramayya,

While thanking you for your suggestion for the national flag of India I am herewith returning you your book on the national flag. Kindly acknowledge a receipt and oblige.

Yours sincerely,

(Chakradhar Sharan)
Private Secretary.

P. Parasuramayya, Esq., M.A.G.A.(Johannesburg),
Secretary, National Geological Bureau,
Dhone,
Kurnool Dist.

1/1 RP File 3rd >03

37

M.4218/47PCA.

1, Queen Victoria Road,

New Delhi.

24th September, 1947.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter dated the 12th instant to the Hon'ble President of the Constituent Assembly I have to inform you that it is proposed to appoint a Committee for the selection of the National Song for our country. I would suggest that you should send your song to the Committee when it is appointed for its consideration

Yours faithfully,

Private Secretary.

To

Shri V.K.Telang,
1349.Shivaji Nagar,
Poona-5.

The National Song

38

Sir,

There has been of late a lot of controversy about the Indian National Song and the way it should be sung. The present "Vande Mataram" is objected to in certain quarters for reasons well-known.

The requirements of a National song which will be acceptable to all are:-

1. It should be simple,

2. It should have a historical continuity in that it should be an adaptation of the present "Vande-Mataram".

3. It should be in the National Language and easily intelligible by all.

I have considered all these aspects and offer the following song which to me appears to satisfy all the above requirements. It therefore deserves consideration for being adopted as a National Song.

Zindabad Hindustan! Jai He Hindustan!
Sujal Sufal aur Malayaja Shital,
Sasya Shyamal Hindustan!
Shubhra Jyotsna Pulakit Dhavalit,
Fulla Kusumit Drumadal Shobhit,
Mangal Hindustan! Hamara Pyara
Hindustan!
Subhashi Aur Sumadhur bhashi,
Sukhad Varad aur satyanveshi,
Priyatam Hindustan! Hamara Jai
He Hindustan!
Hindi sub ham, Vatan hamara,
Azad rahe, Abad rahe,
Zindabad Hindustan!
Jai Ho Hindustan!

Yours truly
Vasant Telang.

From:-
V.K.Telang,
1349, Shivaji Nagar,
Poona-5

AHMEDABAD.

14th August 1947.

From:-

Kumarpal C.Davawala.
Pada Pole, Gandhi Road,
Ahmedabad.

To

The President,
The Indian Union Constitution Assembly,
New Delhi.

Sir,

There have remained only fifteen hours for the British rule in India. After midnight 12/0'clock today we shall be rejoicing our day of independence and there will be an end of nearly two hundred years old British rule from this vast country.

India will carry the message of peace and progress to the world. She will participate and even lead in achieving freedom of each and every human being of the world. Though Indians and particularly the Congress has not achieved independence of India as they wanted by partition of Indian Union and Pakistan, Indians are in preparation of celebration of Independent Day. All Indians are full of joy but to me there is one thing which is a matter of great sorrow .

Our Constitution Assembly has designed and passed the tricolour national flag with Asok's Chakra in the centre of the white band as our National Flag. Though the Constitution Assembly has standardised the flag particularly in respect of the arrangement of colours, size and for the place of Asoka's Chakra, there is one thing lacking in it.

The National Flags of all free nations are wholly woven and they are not ~~stiched~~ stitched with threads. Our

Constitution has not considered this matter so far as I know. I think that it should be ~~khaa~~ wholly woven like other nations flags and the three bands should not be joined with threads. Also the cloth used in preparation of the National Flag should be of any standard woof and warp. The three colours used in it, should be of any certified company. In order to have uniformity in the National Flag any company or mill should be given a monopoly for the manufacture of the National Flags. But I am sorry for the latter. In the ~~dy~~ days of democracy the monopoly system should be completely abolished. So I think it is the best way if there shall be a body appointed by our government, who has to certify the National Flags only if they are of the standard quality approved by the Constitution Assembly also the prive of the National Flag should be fixed.

National flag is not merely a piece of cloth. But it is a respect of a nation and it is the source of getting encouragement and ability at the miserable times to a nation. Many people have given their lives only for the sake of the National Flag. It should never be insulted by anybody and all should be ready at any time or moment for the respect of the National Flag.

I have found many selfish persons in Ahmedabad who do not understand the real value of our National Flag and they value it as a source for making money for their own benefit. I have seen many merchants selling the National Flags prepared from parachute cloth disposed by the Government. This is the extremity of insulting our National Flag.

I think that there should be a severe punishment in future- punishment upto death-for such persons

If you are all convinced by my ideas and suggestions, I hope that you and the Constitution Assembly will take the matter into consideration at the earliest and oblige a sincere sorroful fellow.

Few lines from you in consection with the above matter will be highly appreaciated.

Yours faithfully,

Kumarpal C.Davawala.

JAI HIND

RP file
Sol.No.56

At the last meeting of the Steering Committee, which was attended by the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister, it was decided that a resolution should be placed before the next meeting of the Constitutional Assembly adopting 'Jana Gana Mana' as the National Anthem and also giving equal status to Vande Mataram. It was felt, however, that the drafting would have to be done very carefully so as not only to avoid any ambiguity as to what was meant by equal status but also to avoid controversy in the Assembly. This draft should now be prepared by Mr. Iengar. He might also consult the Prime Minister in this connection.

There is, however, another aspect which has to be borne in mind. The song Jana Gana Mana mentions the name of certain provinces, some of those provinces are no longer in India, such as, Sind, whereas quite a number of other provinces have been left out of the song altogether. Naturally there is some feeling in those provinces that if provinces have to be named, all should be named or none at all. This is a matter which deserves consideration and it is desirable, in case it is decided to have the song amended or altered so as either to omit all the provinces or to bring all of them in, to refer the matter to Santiniketan, and to ask them to adapt the song.

There is also another matter which should be considered. The resolution should contain the texts of the two songs so that there may be no question later on as to whether the whole of the two songs or only portions of them were to be regarded as our National Anthem. So the resolution should be self-contained. Steps should be taken in this connection and a meeting of the Steering Committee may be called shortly before the session of the Assembly for approving the resolution which will be placed before it.

Sd/-
(Rajendra Prasad)
13.12.49.

Secretary, Constitu[illegible]

[Document No 534]

6. STATEMENT RE: NATIONAL ANTHEM

(Vol. XII No.1) 24-1-1950

Mr. President: There is one matter which has been pending for discussion, namely the question of the National Anthem. At one time it was thought that the matter might be brought up before the House and a decision taken by the House by way of a resolution. But it has been felt that, instead of taking a formal decision by means of a resolution, it is better if I make a statement with regard to the National Anthem. Accordingly I make this statement.

The composition consisting of the words and music known as Jana Gana Mana is the National Anthem of India, subject to such alterations in the words as the Government may authorise as occasion arises; and the song Vande Mataram, which has played a historic part in the struggle for Indian freedom, shall be honoured equally with Jana Gana Mana and shall have equal status with it. (Applause). I hope this will satisfy the Members.

SIGNING OF THE CONSTITUTION

(Vol. XII No.1) 24-1-1950.

Mr. President: The only thing that now remains is the signing of the copy of the Constitution by the Members. There are three copies ready. One is in English completely hand-written and illuminated by artists. The second copy is in print in English. The third copy is also hand-written in Hindi. All the three copies are laid on the table and Members will be required one by one to come and sign the copies. The idea is to call them in the order in which they are sitting in the House now. But, as the Honourable the Prime Minister has to go on public duty, I will request him first to sign them.

The Members will now come from the right side, from Madras side, as they are, and sign one by one.

Mr. President: Is there any Member who has not yet signed? If any, he may sign later on in the office.

Honourable Members: Bande Mataram.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): All of us will sing, with your permission, Sir, "Jana Gana Mana".

Mr President: Yes.

(Shrimati Purnima Banerji with other Members sang "Jana Gana Mana" all standing).

Mr. President: "Bande Mataram".

(Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra, with other Members then sang "Bande Mataram", all standing).

Mr. President: The House will stand adjourned now, sine die.

The Constituent Assembly then adjourned, sine die.

Document No.192A

3(a). Minutes of the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on the National Flag held at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, July 10, 1947.

Present

Dr. Rajendra Prasad (in the Chair)
Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar
Mrs. Sarojini Naidu
Sardar K.M. Panikkar
Mr. K.M. Munshi
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
Sardar Baldev Singh
Mr. Frank Anthony
Mr. S.N. Gupta
Pandit Hiralal Shastri
Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya
Mr. Satyanarayan Sinha

In attendance:

Mr. H.V.R. Iengar, Secretary
Mr. B.F.H.B. Tyabji, Deputy Secretary

Pandit Jawaharlal ~~Nehru~~ Nehru was present by special invitation.

After a general discussion on the significance and importance of the National flag, it was agreed that the flag should be so designed as to command universal respect and devotion, irrespective of party or other affiliations, and then placed before the Constituent Assembly for adoption and the National Flag of India.

2. The following decisions were then taken:

(1) The flag of the Indian National Congress should be adopted as the national flag with suitable modifications to make it acceptable to all parties and communities in India.

(2) The size of the flag should be in the proportion of 3:2, the former being the length from masthead to fly.

(3) The flag should be a tricolour with the

three bands horizontally arranged.

(4) The colours should be in the following order: Saffron on the top; White in the middle; and dark Green at the bottom.

(5) The emblem on the flag should be an exact reproduction of the wheel on the capitol of Ashoka's Sarnath Pillar superimposed in the middle of the central bank (white) of the flag.

(6) The colour of the emblem should be dark blue.

3. The question of the designs of the State emblem and seal was then considered, and the following tentative decision taken:

(1) The emblem and the seal should be of the same design.

(2) The design should be an exact reproduction of the whole of the Sarnath Asoka capitol till it joins the stem of the Pilla (Sthambha)

(3) The words "Republic of India" should be superscribed round the emblem, and "Seal of the Republic of India" round the seal.

The Committee decided to meet again after a few days when a final decision on the designs of the flag and the emblem will be taken after considering the samples which will be made in accordance with the directions given above.

New Delhi,
July 10, 1947.

H.V.R. Iengar
Secretary.

To

All members of the Ad Hoc Committee on National Flag.

Document No.192B

2(b). Draft Minutes of the second meeting of the ad hoc Committee on National Flag held at 6 P.M. on Friday, July 18, 1947, in Council House, New Delhi.

Present:

1. Dr. Rajendra Prasad (in the Chair)
2. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
3. Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar
4. Mrs. Sarojini Naidu
5. Sardar K.M. Panikkar
6. Mr. K.M. Munshi
7. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
8. Sardar Baldev Singh
9. Mr. Frank Anthony
10. Mr. S.N. Gupta
11. Pandit Hiralal Shastri
12. Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya
13. Mr. Satyanarayan Sinha

In attendance:

1. Mr. H.V.R. Iengar, Secretary
2. Mr. B.F.H.B. Tyabji, Deputy Secretary.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was present by special invitation.

The design of the flag prepared in accordance with the direction given at the first meeting of the Committee was approved. It was decided that:

(i) the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru should move a resolution in the Constituent Assembly in the following terms:-

"The National Flag shall be a horizontal tricolour of deep Saffron (Kesari), white and dark green in equal proportion. In the centre of the white band, there shall be a Wheel in navy blue to represent the Charkha. The design of the Wheel shall be that of the Wheel (Chakra) which appears on the abacus of the Sarnath Lion Capitol of Asoka.

The diameter of the wheel shall approximate to the width of the white band.

The ration of the width to the length of the flag shall ordinarily be 2:3".

(ii) That samples of the flag decided upon should be prepared and shown to members of the Constituent Assembly when the resolution is moved.

(iii) After the Constituent Assembly has approved the flag, the President of the All India Women's Conference should be formally invited to present a flag of the approved design on behalf of the women of India to the nation.

2. As regards the design of State seal and emblem, it was considered that a decision in this matter was not of immediate urgency, and should be postponed until more designs were prepared.

New Delhi,
July 19,1947.

H.V.R. Iengar
Secretary.

Document No.560D

SINGING OF NATIONAL SONGS

[C.A.D. Vol V/P1]

Mr. President: The next item is the singing of the first few lines of Sare Jahan se Acaha Hindustan Hamara and the first verse of Janaganamana Adhinayaka Jaya He.

(Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani sang the first few lines of Sare Jahan Se Achcha Hindustan Hamara and the first verse of Janaganamana Adhinayaka Jaya He).

Mr. President: The House will no adjourn for a few hours, till Ten of the Clock.

The Assembly then adjourned till Ten of the Clock on Friday, the 16th August, 1957.

Document No.56QE

HOISTING OF THE NATIONAL FLAG [CAD. vol V No 2. p 23]

Mr. President: His Excellency will now give the signal for hoisting the Flag.

(The sound of a gun being fired was heard)

H.E. The Governor-General: That is the signal for hoisting the flag over this roof.

Mr. President: The House now stands adjourned till 10 of the Clock on the 20th.

Honourable Members: Mahatma Gandhi ki jai

Mahatma Gandhi ki jai

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru ki jai.

Lord Mountbatten ki jai.

The Assembly then adjourned till 10 of the Clock on Wednesday, the 20th August, 1947.

Document No.56bC

(viiib) Presentation of the National Flag

[C.A.D. Vol IV No 7. Vol V pp 1811]

RESOLUTION RE: NATIONAL FLAG

Mr. President: We shall proceed with the agenda. The first item on the agenda is a Motion by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru about the Flag.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru(United Provinces: General): Mr. President, it is may pround privilege to move the following Resolution:

"Resolved that the National Flag of India shall be horizental tricolour of deep Saffron (Kesari), white and dark green in equal proportion. In the centre of the white band, there shall be a wheel in navy blue to represent the, Charkha The design of the West shall be that of the Wheel. (Charka) which appears on the abacuse of the Sarnath Lion Capital of Asoka.

The diameter of the Wheel shall approximate to the width of the white band.

The ratio of the width to the length of the Flag shall ordinarily be 2:3."

This Resolution, Sir, is in simple language, in a slightly technical language and there is no glow or warmth in the words that I have read. Yet I am sure that many in this House will feel that glow and warmth which I feel at the present moment for behind this Resolution and the Flag which I have the honour to present to this House for adoption lies history, the concentrated history of short span in a nation's existence. Nevertheless, sometimes in a brief period we pass through the track of centuries. It is not so much the mere act of living that counts but

what one does in this brief life that is ours; it is not so much the mere existence of a nation that counts but what that nation does during the various periods of its existence; and I do venture to claim that in the past quarter of a century or so India has lived and acted in a concentrated way and the emotions which have filled the people of India represent not merely a brief spell of years but something infinitely more. They have gone down into history and tradition and have added themselves on to that vast history and tradition which is our heritage in this country. So, when I move this Resolution, I think of this concentrated history through which all of us have passed during the last quarter of a century. Memories crowd in upon me. I remember the ups and downs of the great struggle for freedom of this great nation. I remember and many in this House will remember how we looked up to this Flag not only with pride and enthusiasm but with a tingling in our veins; also how, when we were sometimes down and out, then again the sight of this Flag gave us courage to go on. Then, many who are not present here today, many of our comrades who have passed, held on to this Flag, some amongst them even unto death, and handed it over as they sank, to others to hold it aloft. So, in this simple form of words, there is much more than will be clear on the surface. There is the struggle of the people for freedom with all its ups and downs and trials and disasters and there is, finally today as I move this Resolution, a certain triumph about it - a measure of triumph in the conclusion of that struggle.

* * * *

So I present this Flag to you. This Resolution defines the Flag which I trust you will adopt. In a sense this Flag was adopted, not by a formal resolution, but by popular acclaim and usage, adopted much more by the sacrifice that surrounded it in the past few decades. We are in a sense only ratifying that popular adoption. It is a Flag which has been variously described. Some people, having misunderstood its significance, have thought of it in communal terms and believe that some part of it represents this community or that. But I may say that when this Flag was devised there was no communal significance attached to it. We thought of a design for a Flag which was beautiful, because the symbol of a nation must be beautiful to look at. We thought of a Flag which would in its combination and in its separate parts would somehow represent the spirit of the nation, the tradition of the nation, that mixed spirit and tradition which has grown up through thousands of years in India. So, we devised this Flag.

* * * *

So, Sir, now I would present to you not only the Resolution but the Flag itself.

There are two of these National Flags before you. One is on silk - the one I am holding - and the other on the other side of cotton Khadi.

I beg to move this Resolution. (Cheers)

* * * *

Sir S. Radhakrishnan (United Provinces: General): Mr. President, Sir I do not wish

to say very much after the very eloquent way in which Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru presented this Flag and the Resolution to you. The Flag links up the past and the present. It is the legacy bequeathed to us by the architects of our liberty. Those who fought under this Flag are mainly responsible for the arrival of this great day of Independence for India. Pandit Jawaharlal has pointed out to you that it is not a day of joy unmixed with sorrow. The Congress fought for unity and liberty. The unity has been compromised; liberty too, I feel, has been compromised, unless we are able to face the tasks which now confront us with courage, strength and vision. What is essential to-day is to equip ourselves with new strength and with new character if these difficulties are to be overcome and if the country is to achieve the great ideal of unity and liberty which it fought for. Times are hard. Everywhere we are consumed by phantasies. Our minds are haunted by myths. The world is full of misunderstandings, suspicions and distrusts. In these difficult days it depends on us under what banner we fight. Here we are putting in the very centre the white, the white of the Sun's rays. The white means the parth of light. There is darkness even at noon as some people have urged, but it is necessary for us to dissipate these clouds of darkness and control our conduct by the ideal light, the light of truth, of transparent simplicity which is illustrated by the colour of white.

We cannot attain purity, we cannot gain our goal of truth, unless we walk in the parth of virtue. The Asoka's wheel represents to us the wheel of the Law, the wheel of the Dharma. Truth can be gained only by the pursuit of the path of Dharma, by the practice of virtue. Truth, Satya, Dharma, Virtue, these ought to be the controlling principles of all those who work under this Flag. It also tells us that the Dharma is something which is perpetually moving. If this country has suffered in the recent past, it is due to our resistence to change. There are ever so many challenges hurled at us and if we have not got the courage and the strength to move along with the times, we will be left behind. There ever so many institutions which are worked into our social fabric like caste and untouchability. Unless these things are scrapped we cannot say that we either seek truth or practice, virtue. This wheel, which is rotating thing, which is a perpetually revolving thing, indicates to us that there is death in stagnation. There is life in movement. Out Dharma is Sanatana, eternal, not in the sense that it is a fixed deposit but in the sense that it is perpetually changing. Its uninterrupted continuity is its Sanatana character. So even with regard to our social conditions it is essential for us to move forward.

The red, the organge, the Bhagwa colour represents the spirit of renunciation. It is said:

Sarve tyage rajadharmesu drsta

All forms of renunciation are to be embodied in Raja Dharma. Philosophers must be Kings. Our leaders must be disinterested. They must be dedicated spirits. They must be people who are imbued with the spirit of renunciation which that saffron colour has transmitted to us from the beginning of our history. That stands for the fact that the World belongs not to the wealthy, not to the prosperous but to the meek and the humble, the dedicated and the detached. That spirit of detachment, that spirit of renunciation is represented by the orange or the saffron colour and Mahatma Gandhi has embodied it for us in his life and the Congress has worked under his guidance and with his message. If we are not imbued with that spirit of renunication in these difficult days, we will again go under.

The green is there - our relation to the soil, our relation to the plant life here on which all other life depends. We must build our Paradise here on this green earth. If we are to succeed in this enterprise, we must be guided by truth (white), practise virtue(wheel), adopt the method of self-control and renunciation (saffron). This Flag tells us 'Be ever alert, be ever on the move, go forward, work for a free, flexible compassionate, decent, democratic society in which Christians, Sikhs, Moslems, Hindus, Buddhists will all find a safe shelter.'

Thank you. (Loud cheers).

* * * *

Mrs. Sarojini Naidu (Bihar: General) Mr. President, the House knows that I had refused over and over again this morning to speak. I thought that the speech of Jawaharlal Nehru - so epic in its quality of beauty

dignity and appropriateness - was sufficient to express the aspirations, emotions and the ideals of this House. But I was happy when I saw the representatives of the various communities that constitute this House rise up and pledge their allegiance to this Flag. I was especially reminded by the people that sit behind me from the Province of Bihar that it was at the risk of my life and seat in their province, should I forget to mention that this Flag, so willingly and proudly accepted today by the House, has for its symbol the Dharma Chakra of Asoka, whom they claim (I do not know with what historical veracity) to be a Bihari! But if I am speaking here today, it is not on behalf of any community, or any creed or any sex, though women members of this House are very insistent that a woman should speak. I think that the time has come in the onward march of the world-civilisation when there should be no longer any sex consciousness or sex separation in the service of the country. I therefore speak on behalf of that ancient reborn Mother with her undivided heart and indivisible spirit, whose love is equal for all her children, no matter what corner they come from in what temples or mosques they worship, what language they speak or what culture they profess.

* * * * *

Many of my friends have spoken of this Flag with the poetry of their own hearts. I as a poet and as a woman, I am speaking prose to you today when I say that we women stand for the unity of India.

Remember under this Flag there is no prince and there is no peasant, there is no rich and there is no poor. There is no privilege there is only duty and responsibility and sacrifice. Whether we be Hindus or Muslims, Christians, Jains, Sikhs or Zorostrains and others, our Mother India has one undivided heart and indivisible spirit. Men and women of reborn India, rise and salute this Flag! I bid you, rise and salute the Flag (Loud cheers)

Mr. President: I would ask Members to express their assent to the Resolution which has abeen placed before them and show their respect to the Flag by getting up and standing in their places for half a minutes.

* * * *

PRESENTATION OF THE NATIONAL FLAG

Mr. President: Shrimati Hansa Mehta will now present the National Flag on behalf of the women of India. (Cheers).

Mrs. Hansa Mehta (Bombay: General): Mr. President, Sir, in the absence of Shrimati Sarojini Naidu, it is my proud privilege, on behalf of the women of India, to present this flag to the Nation through you.

I have a list* here of nearly a hundred prominent women of all communities who have expressed a desire to associate themselves with this ceremonial. There are hundreds and hundreds of other women who would equally like to participate in this function. It is in the

fitness of things that this first flag that will fly over this august House should be a gift from the women of India. (Cheers) We have donned the saffron colour, we have fought, suffered and sacrificed in the cause of our country's freedom. We have today attained our goal. In presenting this symbol of our freedom, we once more offer our services to the nation, We pledge ourselves to work for a great India, for building up a nation that will be a nation among nations. We pledge ourselves for working for a greater cause to maintain, traditions that made India so great in the past. It is the duty of every man and woman to preserve these traditions so that India may hold her spiritual supremacy over the world. May this flag be the symbol of that great India and may it ever fly high and serve as a light in the gloom that threatens the world today. May it bring happiness to those who live under its protecting care. (Cheers).

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*MEMBERS OF THE FLAG PRESENTATION COMMITTEE

1. Sarojini Naidu
2. Amrit Kaur
3. Vijayalakshmi Pandit
4. Hansa Mehta
5. Ammu Swaminathan
6. Sucheta Kripalani
7. Kudsia Aizaz Rasool
8. Durga Bai
9. Renuka Ray
10. Dakshayini Velayudan
11. Purnima Banerji
12. Kamala Chaudhri
13. Malati Chaudhary
14. Abala Bose
15. Lakshmi Bai Rajwade
16. Maitreyi Bose
17. Rameshwari Nehru
18. Sherifa Hamid Ali
19. Goshi Ben Captain
20. Dhanavanti Rama Rao

21. Anasuya Bai Kale
22. Premleela Thakersy
23. Mani Ben Patel.
24. Sarla Devi Sarabhai
25. Avantikabai Gokhaley
26. Sakina Lukmani
27. Jankiben Bajaj
28. Muthulakshmi Reddi
29. Charulata Mukerji
30. Rukmani Lakshmani Lakshmipathi
31. Mithan Tata Lam
32. Hanna Sen
33. Aswah Hussain
34. Radhabai Subbroyan
35. Tarabhai Premchand
36. Jethi Sipahimlani
37. Ambuja Amma
38. Janaki Amma
39. Leelavathi Munthi
40. Lavanya Prabha Dutt
41. Sophia Wadia
42. Mrinalini Chattopadhyay
43. Sarada Ben Mehta
44. Zarina Currimbhoy
45. Prem Captain
46. Hemaprabha Das Gupta
47. Premavati Thappar
48. Zora Ansari
49. Jaishri Raiji
50. Kitty Shiva Rao
51. Shanoodevi
52. Violet Alva
53. Susheela Ilukusing
54. Bina Das
55. Uma Nehru
56. Iravati Karve
57. Raiban Tyabji
58. Asha Aryanayakam
59. Mridula Sarabhai
60. Raksha Saran
61. Margaret Cousins
62. Kamaladevi
63. Lakshmi Menon
64. Lavanya Chanda
65. Ayasha Ahmed
66. Krishna Hutheesingh
67. Rajan Nehru
68. Indira Gandhi
69. Suraya Tyabji
70. Memubai
71. Padmaja Naidu
72. Kiran Bose
73. Kusum Sayani
74. Lajjavati Devi

Mr. President: I have, in anticiaption of the consent of the House accepted with thanks a poem composed by His Excellency Dr. Chia Luen Lo, the Chinese Ambassador in India, on this occasion.

Document No.191

2. Letter of Under Secretary with Shri S.D. Kalekar's Note on National Flag.

Council House,
New Delhi, the 4th July, 1947.

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL FLAG OF INDIA

I forward herewith a note prepared by Mr. S.D. Kalelkar of Nagpur on the National Flag for India for consideration at the first meeting of the Committee fixed for the 10th July, 1947.

sd/-

(K.V. Padmanabhan)
Under Secretary.

To

All members of the Ad Hoc Committee on the National Flag of India.

A NATIONAL FLAG FOR INDIA

(By Shri Satish D. Kalelkar, M.A. (Oxon), Principal, G.S. College of Economics and Commerce, Nagpur).

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's far-sighted decision to stick to the original nomenclature of Union of Indian Republics' with a view to emphasising the Congress stand that there has been no change of outlook as far as they are concerned, may serve as a useful pointer to the

Ad Hoc Committee for National Flag, recently appointed by Dr. Rajendra Prasad the President of the Constituent Assembly. If the Congress ideology has remained unchanged, a flag which has represented that ideology and for which million shed their blood so that the honour of the national flag may be maintained, need not undergo any radical change except on grounds of technical details of flag-making.

Originally, the flag had three horizontal strips of white, green and red in that order, starting from the top, with the figure of 'charkha' superimposed. At later stages, the red strip was replaced by the orange (to recognise the sacrifices of the Saffron-clad 'Desh-sevikas', as some thought) and the other was changed to orange, white and green, with the 'charkha' in the centre.

One of the basic principles of flag-making is that it must be distinct against the background of the sky, and for this reason, a white strip at any extremity has to be ruled out of the question. The original flag with a white strip at the top and flying on the mast of, say, a battleship, would appear against the background of the sky as a flag with only two strips of green and red, the white strip being swallowed up by the sky. The white strip, if it is to remain, and I shall show presently why it should remain, must necessarily be in the centre with two distinct colours coming above and below it.

The second principle is that the colours must be as distinct as possible and must not be capable of running into too many shades. The present organge colour, from this point of view is not an improvement on the old red. Not infrequently we come across flags with organge colours which may be anything from yellow, saffron, and pink to 'bhagwa' of the Sadhu's 'kafni'. The red strip of the original flag was definitely better from this point of view.

Adoption of the original red might also effect a compromise with workers who have a partiality to that colour. A symbol of revolution, the red need not necessarily indicate a bloody revolution; it may very well stand for the non-violent revolution that we have witnessed in India.

If the saffron was introduced to recognise the sacrifices of the 'Desh-sevikas', (and I am told, this was not the case), would not 'white', the symbol of purity, better suit Indian womanhood? Would it not also depict them as 'Sisters of Mercy' which in reality they are? Replacement of the orange need not therefore worry the 'Desh-sevikas'.

A third principle which is equally important if the flag is to have a wide popular appeal is that, the details of design must not be too complicated and over-decorative to make i almost impossible for a man in the street to design a national flgg of his own; 'Tiger's head' for example, would not do.

From this point of view, we should try and see if the present 'charkha' cannot be replaced by something that symbolises 'charkha'. The 'charkha' must of course be maintained, but only in a symbolic form. The present figure of 'charkha' creates following difficulties of flag-making:

(i) The design is not very easy to draw;

(ii) It is not symmetrical; and

(iii) If the observe of the flag shows 'charkha' with the wheel towards the mast and the spindle towards the end with its point facting towards one (I am thinking of the position when the flag is flying to the left of the mast), then the reverse must show the same 'charkha' but the point of the spindle facing away from one. Few understand this important point and we come across ridiculous figures of 'charkha' with the wheel towards the left and the spindle pointing towards one on the right!

The simple wheel, I submit, could still symbolise the 'charkha' making it easier to draw, symmatrical in design, and without creating confusion with the observe and the reverse sides of the flag.

The wheel which was the earliest and most vital discovery of human beings has been

the sub-stratum of all civilizations, and it would particulary symbolise and agricultural community such as India; it would therefore represent the Kisan and the Kisan movement too.

At the same time, the wheel may indicate industry and commerce without necessarily implying mechanisation or the capitalist system.

The wheel may further symbolise 'kranti' by being the wheel of revolution and may be acceptable to parties which prefer to aall themselves 'revolutionary'.

And finally, the wheel might also include the Buddhist concept of 'Dharma-Chakra' (adopted by Emperor Ashoke) or the balance-wheel of religion that sustains society. The spiritual basis of Indian civilisation might thus be made pronounced in our national symbol which will carry the message of peace, and non-violence to the whole world.

To conclude, our flag may have three strips or red, white and green (of the mother earth and her children the tillers) with a wheel with eight spokes superimposed in any suitable colour.

Document No.190

5. The National Flag of India

(1) Formation of Ad Hoc Committee for the National Flag of India.

Council House,
New Delhi,
23rd June, 1947.

From the day that India receives complete transfer of power from British hands, it is necessary that a national flag should fly from all public buildings. The design of this flag should be approved in advance by the Constituent Assembly of India.

2. The President has decided that an Ad Hoc Committee consisting of the following members should be set up with a view to advising on the design of the flag. It is proposed that the report of the Committee should be placed before the next session of the Assembly commencing on the 14th of July.

1. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
2. Mr. C. Rajagopalachari
3. Mrs. Sarojini Naidu
4. Sardar K.M. Panikkar
5. Mr. K.M. Munshi
6. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
7. Sardar Ujjal Singh
8. Mr. Frank Anthony
9. Mr. S.N. Gupta (formerly Principal of the Mayo School of Ars, Lahore)

3. The President has good reason to believe that there is a strong feeling in the country

in favour of adopting as the national flag of India the national flag adopted by the Congress in 1931. Copies of the resolutions passed by the Working Committee and the A.I.C.C. in August of that year are enclosed for information.

4. The first meeting of the Committee will be held in the President's room in the Council Chamber on Thursday the 10th July, at 10 A.M. I am to express the hope that you will find it convenient to attend.

Yours sincerely,

H.V.R. Iengar.

Encls: 2

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1. Resolution passed by the Working Committee at the meeting held in August 1931.

NATIONAL FLAG

Having considered the Report of the Flag Committee, the Working Committee appreciates its labours and endorses its view that the National Flag should not bear any communal signifiance and that it should be distinctive and not capable of being mistaken for the flag of any other country. The Working Committee feels, however, that it would be desirable to have as little change as possible in the existing flag. The Committee, therefore, recommends to the A.I.C.C. for its adoption the following changes:

The flag to be three coloured, horizontally arranged, as before, but the colours shall be saffron, white and gree in the order stated here

from top to bottom, with the spinning wheel in dark blue in the centre of the white stripe; it being understood that the colours have no communal signifiance, but that saffron shall represent courage and sacrifice, white peace and truth, and gree shall represent faith and chivalry, and the spinning wheel the hope of the masses.

2. Resolution passed by the A.I.C.C. at the meeting held in August 1931.

The report of the National Flag Committee was considered and it was resolved that "the National Flag shall be three coloured, horizontally arranged as before, but the colours shall be Saffron, White and Green, in the order stated here from top to bottom, with the spinning-wheel in dark blue in the centre of the white stripe, the colours standing for qualities, not communities. The saffron shall represent courage and sacrifice, white peace and truth, and green shall represent faith and chivalry and the spinning-wheel the hope of the masses. The proprtions of the flag should be as three to two." The new national flag was required to be hoisted on August 30th, the last Sunday of the month, which was to be celebrated as the Flag Day.